

III. *Fur rather harsh, abundant; sides with a narrow reddish streak.*

33. *Macroxus dimidiatus.*

Sciurus dimidiatus, Waterhouse, P. Z. S. 1840, p. 21; S. Baird, M. N. A. 283.

Fur rather harsh, abundant, reddish iron-grey; hairs short, close, black at the base, with a broad pale-brown ring, a dark-brown subterminal ring, and a white tip; upper part of head, shoulders, legs, thighs, and feet, and a streak along each side of the body rufous; sides of the head, chin, and beneath yellow: tail reddish, black-varied; hairs reddish brown, with a broad black subterminal ring and reddish end, and grey base.

Hab. South America? (Waterhouse's type, not in a good state.) B.M.

This specimen was purchased at a sale with some South-American squirrels; but it has much more the appearance of an African squirrel. No other specimen of this squirrel has occurred to me; so the true habitat is still doubtful.

LI.—*Synopsis of the Species of Burrowing Squirrels (Tamias) in the British Museum.* By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S.

THE Ground-Squirrels form a very natural group, and are marked very similarly externally, so much so that it is very difficult to distinguish them from each other. But when you have a series of specimens from the same country, and from different localities, you can have no doubt that they are very distinct species, though it is very difficult to record the difference in words; for no sooner do you think that you have hit upon a distinctive character that can be written down than you find it in some of the other specimens.

The different species vary somewhat in size; but then the specimens from the same country vary a little in this respect; yet there is an average size that is characteristic of the species. *T. striatus* of Europe and North Asia is the largest; and then follow *T. Townsendii*, *T. americanus*, then *T. Hindsii* and *T. quadrimaculatus*; and *T. quadrivittatus* is the smallest.

A. *Tail as long as the body; back with five longitudinal equidistant black streaks, separated by four pale streaks; face with a white streak extended behind, above, and under the eye.*

a. *The pale streaks wide, wider in the middle. Larger.*

Tamias striatus, Linn.

Pale ash-grey, yellowish grey in the middle, grey on the sides.

Hab. Europe: B.M. Asia, Altai: B.M.

b. *The pale streaks narrow, linear, well-defined. Smaller.*

Tamias quadrivittatus.

Sciurus quadrivittatus, Say, in Long's Exped. 1823, ii. 45; Richardson, F. B. A. t. 16.

Tamias minimus, Bachmann.

Fur pale ash-grey, sides reddish; underside of the tail reddish yellow, black and grey on the sides.

Hab. West coast of North America (Lord): B.M. California, Scott Mountains (Brydges): B.M.

Tamias Hindsii.

Tamias Hindsii, Gray, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1842, x. 264; Zool. Sulph. t. 13. f. 1.

? *T. Cooperi*, Baird, Proc. Acad. N. S. Philad. 1855, vii. 334.

T. Townsendii, var., Baird, M. N. A. 300.

Fur dark ash-grey, reddish on the sides; the pale and dark streaks elongate, well marked; the underside of the tail orange-red in the middle, blackish on the sides.

Hab. California (Hinds), B.M.; Vancouver Island (Lord), Cascade Ranges (Lord), and British Columbia, Sunago Range (Lord), B.M.

Tamias Townsendii.

Tamias Townsendii, Bachmann, J. A. N. S. Philad. 1839, viii. 68; Baird, M. N. A. 300.

Fur dark mouse-coloured, minutely punctulated with white; the four pale streaks grizzled grey and white, indistinctly defined, broad, short; three of the black streaks short; the lateral dark streak brown, very short, and indistinctly marked; hinder part of the base of the ears grizzled: tail blackish-grey grizzled; underside orange, with black edges.

Hab. California. B.M.

Larger than *T. Hindsii*, with the grey dorsal streak indistinctly marked, grizzled like the back.

Tamias quadrimaculatus.

T. Townsendii, Gruber.

Fur dark grizzled; shoulders and sides reddish; the pale dorsal streaks broad, indistinctly marked, grizzled; outer one narrow and more marked; the dark streaks broad, short, the outer ones scarcely defined; neck with a large white spot on each side of the nape, behind the ear, and with a large black spot beneath it at the end of the very distinct dark under face-streak; tail black, white-washed, beneath orange, blackish-edged. Young like adult, but dark streaks more marked. Same size as *T. Hindsii*.

Hab. California, Michigan Bluff (Gruber). B.M.

These three may be varieties of the same species. There are two or three specimens of each species in the Museum, and they appear very distinct.

B. *Tail shorter than the body; back with five dark streaks, the side ones far from the vertebral, and edging a pale lateral streak; face-streak indistinct, white.*

Tamias americanus, Kuhl.

Tamias striatus, S. Baird, M. N. A. 293.

Sciurus striatus, L.

Sc. striatus americanus, Gmelin.

Tamias Lysteri, Richardson.

Eye with a white streak above and below.

Hab. Canada, United States of North America, New York, Washington, Western Missouri. B.M.

C. *Tail shorter than the body, bushy; back with a distinct dorsal streak and an indistinct lateral one on each side.*

Tamias dorsalis, Baird, Proc. A. N. S. Philad. 1855, vii. 332;
Mam. N. A. 300.

Hab. New Mexico (Webster).

LII.—*Descriptions of two new Fossil Cowries characteristic of Tertiary beds near Melbourne.* By FREDERICK M'COY, Prof. of Nat. Science in Melbourne University, and Government Palæontologist for Victoria.

Cypræa (Trivia) avellanoides (M'Coy).

Sp. Ch. Very thin, ovato-globose, transverse sections nearly three-quarters of a circle from the outer lip, the remainder of the inner lip curving more rapidly, obtusely rounded behind, slightly tapering in front to the short, scarcely notched canal; aperture narrow, of nearly equal width throughout (about seven times as long as wide), the outer and inner lips nearly parallel, terminating in a very short, straight channel in front, but abruptly curved to the right, with the thickened outer lip behind; spire not prominent, of three turns and a half; surface crossed by very narrow, sharply defined, very prominent, thread-like ridges, varying from thirty-five at 1 inch long to twenty-three at 4 lines long, very rarely dichotomizing irregularly or stopping short, more often turning abruptly out of their course with a branch-like bend to one side, so as to intercalate short ridges, between a longer pair, separated by sharply defined, broad, flat spaces usually three or four times as wide as the